

# Agency Involvement

## New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD)

The proposed Federal action for this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is for the FAA to issue a launch site operator license to the New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD) or its designated state agency. The State of New Mexico would operate the Southwest Regional Spaceport to support horizontal and vertical suborbital launches of reusable and expendable launch vehicles. NMEDD promotes research and development, helps finance job training, and recruits new businesses to New Mexico. For more information on NMEDD visit the website at: <http://www.edd.state.nm.us/>



Proposed spectator viewing area for Southwest Regional Spaceport, looking east northeast toward the airfield area

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## Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST)

To operate a commercial launch facility, the State of New Mexico must obtain a launch site operator license from the FAA. The license remains in effect for five years from the date of issuance unless surrendered, suspended, or revoked before the expiration of the term, and is renewable upon application by the licensee. Before a license is issued by AST, the environmental review component of the licensing process must be satisfied per the National Environmental Policy Act. This is accomplished through the preparation of an environmental determination, which becomes a part of the license evaluation. The environmental review component of the licensing process ensures that potentially significant environmental impacts of licensed space launch activities on the natural and human environment are fully considered in FAA's decision making. For more information on the FAA, visit <http://ast.faa.gov/>.

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## Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The BLM has agreed to be a cooperating agency in preparing the EIS because the NMEDD proposes to make limited improvements to roads and to the electric power distribution infrastructure located on lands administered by BLM. Any other potential impacts to lands administered by BLM will be analyzed in the EIS.

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## U.S. Army

The FAA has asked the U.S. Army to be a cooperating agency in preparing the EIS because the proposed action may include landings of launch vehicles within the SRS or adjacent areas, which would include the U.S. Army's White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). The NMEDD proposes to land and recover experimental (untested and unproven) launch vehicles on WSMR. SRS operations also would be conducted within the confines of WSMR's restricted airspace.